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SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

THE YEAR 1913

BY

JOHN HAMILTON, M.D.

INCLUDING THE

Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances

BY

GEORGE POLLARD, C.R.S.I.



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SWADLINCOTE
DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report
FOR 1913.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District for the year ending December 31st, 1913, this being my 37th Report.

Situation. The District is situated in the extreme south of the County of Derby, in N. lat. : 52°40', W. long : 1°38'

The mean elevation is about 250 feet above sea level.

Geology. Almost throughout the whole of the district there is a clay sub-soil, in part argillaceous, and with coal at various depths.

Area. The total area of the district is 3,670 acres, five of these being water.

Population. The population to the middle of the year has been estimated at 19,161. The method of arriving at these figures is based on the assumption that the proportionate rate of increase during the year would be the same as during the previous intercensal period. It is necessary always that this estimate should be checked so that the actual population may be arrived at as nearly as possible.

This is of great importance, as all statistics depend for their accuracy on a correct estimation of the population. An over-estimated population will obviously give an unduly favourable bearing to all statistics relating to death rates and rates of incidence of disease.

Housing, Town Planning Act, etc., 1909.

The total number of houses in the district is 4,080. The number of those newly erected being 17.

In accordance with this Act, inspections of this district are being carried out.

The house-to-house inspection under this Act continues, the number of premises inspected this year being 650.

In addition to the discovery of Sanitary defects, particulars are also recorded regarding the source of the water supply and the type of closet accommodation.

No. of houses inspected under Section 17...	...	650
No. unfit for human habitation	2
No. of representations made to the local authority		1
Closing orders made under Section 17	1
Houses closed without a closing order being made		1
No. of houses demolished	1
No. of dwelling houses, the defects of which were remedied under Section 15	165
Houses rendered fit for human habitation after closing orders have been made	nil

Nature of
Defects found.

Houses with badly lighted living and sleeping rooms, bedrooms and living rooms badly ventilated, defective drainage, spoutings, yard pavings, living and bedroom floors, decayed

plastering on walls and ceilings, damp walls and ceilings, want of sink stones and waste pipes for carrying off refuse water from the houses, houses with inconvenient water supplies. Offensive cesspool privies and large open ashpits, in close proximity to dwelling houses.

Birth Rate.

The number of births registered during the year was 539, as compared with 536 for the previous 12 months. The birth rate was 28·13.

1909	-	33·09	} per 1,000
1910	-	27·90	
1911	-	28·73	
1912	-	28·23	

Deaths.

The number of deaths was 242, giving a death rate of 12·58, as compared with the previous years—

1909	-	12·57	} per 1,000
1910	-	9·85	
1911	-	14·33	
1912	-	11·95	

The number of deaths from 65 years and upwards was 53, giving a death rate of 2·76

Zymotic
Death Rate.

The number of deaths from seven principal zymotic diseases (smallpox, scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, and epidemic diarrhœa) was 27, giving a death rate of 1·40

In the previous five years the death rate from zymotic causes was—

1909	-	0·58	} per 1,000
1910	-	0·9	
1911	-	2·6	
1912	-	1·63	

**TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1913 and
Previous Years.**

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate.	of Non- residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	20'164		597	29'6	236	11'20		10	71	118'92	246	12'19
1909	20'342		572	28'11	197	9'68		14	53	92'65	211	10'37
1910	21'000		586	27'90	194	9'23		13	66	112'62	207	9'85
1911	18'830		542	28'73	249	13'22		21	85	156'82	270	14'33
1912	18'987		536	28'23	209	11'0		18	62	115'67	227	11'95
1913	19'161		539	28'13	212	11'06		30	55	102'04	242	12'58

Area of District in acres (inclusive of area covered by water), 3,670.

Total population of all ages, 19,161.

Number of inhabited houses, 4,080. Average number of persons per house 4'6.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.
TABLE III.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	Total Deaths in Institutions in the District.
All causes, certified	- 242 -	54 -	15 -	11 -	14 -	11 -	20 -	34 -	53 -	30
Enteric Fever	- 1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0
Measles	- 5 -	1 -	2 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1
Scarlet Fever	- 1 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0
Whooping Cough	- 2 -	1 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0
Diphtheria and Croup	- 8 -	1 -	0 -	2 -	4 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1
Influenza	- 3 -	1 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0
Erysipelas	- 1 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	- 7 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	3 -	2 -	0 -	0 -	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	- 1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0
Cancer, malignant disease	13 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	1 -	5 -	5 -	1
Meningitis	- 4 -	0 -	3 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0
Organic Heart Disease	- 23 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	2 -	4 -	5 -	7 -	4
Bronchitis	- 21 -	5 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	3 -	11 -	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	- 17 -	1 -	1 -	4 -	3 -	1 -	2 -	2 -	0 -	3
Other diseases of respiratory organs	- 2 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	- 10 -	6 -	2 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	- 1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	- 7 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	2 -	3 -	1 -	0
Puerperal Fever	- 2 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	2 -	0 -	0 -	0
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	- 1 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	0
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	- 39 -	30 -	5 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	3
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	- 6 -	0 -	0 -	0 -	1 -	1 -	2 -	1 -	0 -	1
Other Defined Diseases	- 65 -	6 -	0 -	0 -	2 -	1 -	3 -	12 -	28 -	13

Infantile
Mortality.

The number of deaths under one year was 55, giving a death rate per 1,000 of 102·04, as compared with—

1909	-	94·65	} per 1,000
1910	-	112·62	
1911	-	156·82	
1912	-	115·67	

This rate compares favourably with similar districts in other parts.

Illegitimate
Births.

There were 23 illegitimate births, viz. : 11 males and 12 females.

Illegitimate
Deaths.

The number of illegitimate deaths was 7.

The District Council have not adopted the Notification of Births' Act.

Deaths from
Tuberculous
Diseases.

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis registered was 7, giving a death rate of '36. Last year the death rate from this cause was '63.

Tuberculous diseases other than Phthisis caused 2 deaths. All cases notified were visited by the Nurse Inspector, who made investigations, and left instructions to be observed by the patient and those in attendance.

Disinfection of the rooms occupied by consumptive patients was carried out.

Cancer.

Cancer and other malignant diseases accounts for 13 deaths. No case occurred in a house where cancer has previously occurred.

The number of infectious diseases *notified* during the year is shown in the accompanying table.

TABLE II.

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Under 1,	1 and under 5 years,	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup,	48	- 1	- 9	- 33	- 4	- 1	- 0	- 0
Erysipelas -	22	- 2	- 1	- 2	- 0	- 9	- 5	- 3
Scarlet Fever	- 110	- 0	- 42	- 65	- 2	- 1	- 0	- 0
Enteric Fever	- 4	- 0	- 0	- 1	- 2	- 1	- 0	- 0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	23	- 0	- 1	- 5	- 7	- 8	- 2	- 0
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	20	- 1	- 4	- 9	- 3	- 3	- 0	- 0
Totals	- 227	- 4	- 57	- 115	- 18	- 23	- 7	- 3

Scarlet Fever.

The number (110) of cases notified was far in excess of last year, when 33 only were reported. The type of disease was mild only one death occurring. The epidemic was confined almost entirely to Church Gresley.

Diphtheria and
Membranous
Croup.

Here, too, we had a great advance in the number of cases notified, being 48 as compared with three, 8 deaths resulted.

In all cases the infected houses were visited to obtain particulars of the disease, and gave instruction for isolation, etc.

Personal contact was the cause of most of the cases. In no case has the infection been traced to the milk supply.

Bacteriological examination of the throat of suspected cases is carried out by the County authorities, and has proved of great help in settling doubtful cases. Antitoxin was fully used and proved of great benefit.

In each case of infectious disease reported, the house was visited to trace the source of the infection, and to give instructions for isolation of patient.

Liquid disinfectants are supplied during the course of the case, and the room thoroughly fumigated at the termination thereof.

Owing to the number of cases occurring in the household of children attending the York Road Council School, the place was thoroughly disinfected on two occasions.

The impossibility of dealing with these cases at home will be obvious to all. The means of isolation being quite inadequate. Under these circumstances I would respectfully bring to your notice the necessity of providing an Infectious Diseases Hospital or of joining with an adjacent authority in so doing.

Enteric. Four cases were notified during the 12 months, one death resulting.

Erysipelas 22 cases were reported and one death occurred.

Measles. Five deaths occurred from this cause.

Puerperal Fever. There were no cases reported during the year.

Whooping
Cough.

Two deaths resulted from this cause.

Diarrhoea and
Enteritis.

Ten deaths were certified from this cause as compared with 5 for the previous year.

Bronchitis and
Pneumonia.

38 deaths occurred from these causes as compared with 33 for the previous year.

Occupational
Mortality.

Our principal industries are collieries, sanitary pipe works, and potteries. The health of the workers is good. One case of lead poisoning was notified during the year.

Milk supply.

No examination of dairy cows for tuberculosis were made by a Veterinary Surgeon during the year, nor has any occasion arisen to have the milk of any dairy examined.

There are 43 dairies, cowsheds and milk shops on the register ; all have been repeatedly inspected, and where necessary improvements and alterations carried out under the supervision of the Inspector.

Other foods have been examined from time to time by surprise visits to markets, etc. It has not been found necessary to seize any food offered for sale.

Water supply.

The water is supplied on the constant system, is sufficient in amount, of good quality, and free from pollution.

Common
Lodging Houses

We are without any lodging houses in the district.

Sewage and
Drainage.

The sewage system of the district is of the best, the water supply being sufficient, and the farm large enough to deal with considerably more sewage than it receives at present.

The scavenging is carried out in an efficient manner by the Council's servants, and few complaints have been made during the last year.

The working and converting the old privies into W.C.'s still goes forward, and this year 103 conversions have been made. In the cases of newly erected houses 22 water closets have been erected.

Elementary
Schools.

At intervals I have inspected the schools, and I am glad to report a satisfactory sanitary condition of them.

The Medical Inspection of school children is in our district carried out by the County Medical Officer.

Slaughter
Houses.

There are 34 such in the district ; they have all been frequently visited and found to be satisfactory.

Factory and
Workshop Acts.

The list of workshops and factories will be found detailed in the Sanitary Inspector's report. In addition to the Inspector's visits I have frequently and systematically visited them, and find them all, as regards space, ventilation, lighting and cleanliness, in good condition.

I have, by monthly reports and otherwise, kept you informed as to the health of the district.

In conclusion, I would once again call the Council's attention to the necessity of providing an Infectious Diseases Hospital for the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN HAMILTON.

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality for the Swadlincote District during the year 1913.

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Period										Total Deaths under 1 year
	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	-	-	
All Causes	-	-	-	19	-	14	-	12	6	4	55
Measles	-	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	1	0	1
Whooping Cough	-	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	1	1
Diphtheria and Croup	-	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	1	0	1
Erysipelas	-	0	0	0	-	0	-	1	0	0	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis	-	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	1	0	1
Convulsions	-	1	0	2	-	1	-	1	0	2	6
Bronchitis	-	0	0	0	-	4	-	0	0	0	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	-	0	0	0	-	0	-	1	1	0	2
Enteritis	-	0	0	0	-	2	-	3	1	0	6
Syphilis	-	0	0	0	-	1	-	0	0	0	1
Congenital Malformations	-	0	1	1	-	0	-	0	0	0	1
Premature Birth	-	8	2	10	-	1	-	2	0	0	13
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	2	3	1	6	-	4	-	3	1	1	15
Other Causes	-	0	0	0	-	1	-	1	0	0	2

Nett Births in the year : Legitimate, 516 ; Illegitimate, 23.

Nett Deaths in the year : Legitimate Infants, 48 ; Illegitimate Infants, 7.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

INSPECTION.—Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prose- cutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	- 40	- 2	- 0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	- 97	- 0	- 0
Total	- 137	- 2	- 0

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

	Defects found	Defects remedied
Want of Cleanliness - - - - -	6	6
Sanitary Accommodation { Insufficient - - - - -	2	2
{ Unsuitable or defective - - - - -	10	10
{ Not separate for sexes - - - - -	2	2
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses	8	8
Total	- 28	- 28

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops - - - - -	97
Bakehouses - - - - -	26
Total	- 113

OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories	-	-	23
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	-	-	23

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1913.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
SWADLINCOTE,

FEBRUARY, 1914.

To the Chairman and Members of the Swadlincote District
Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Second Annual Report for the year 1913, and, in doing so, I desire to thank the members of the Council and my fellow officials for their valued and esteemed help in the cause of public health.

The past year has been one of progress in sanitary matters, and a large number of sanitary and housing improvements have been carried out in various parts of the district without legal proceedings having to be resorted to, patience and moral suasion being in most cases sufficient.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One hundred and sixty four cases have been notified to me by the Medical Officer of Health, the investigation of which has taken up a considerable part of my time. In all cases the infected houses were visited to obtain the necessary particulars respecting the diseases, and to trace any possible source of infection. Such isolation of the patients as is possible under the circumstances was always insisted upon, and leaflets giving the necessary instructions how to treat and prevent the spread of the diseases were left at

the houses. At the same time I made a thorough sanitary survey of the houses and premises, with a view of ascertaining if any nuisance existed that might be detrimental to the health of the occupants.

After recovery of the patients the infected rooms have been disinfected with Formaldehyde Gas, the clothing and rooms being then thoroughly washed and cleansed, liquid disinfectants and soap being supplied free by the Council for these purposes.

Owing to a large number of cases occurring at the York Road Schools, it was deemed advisable to have them disinfected, and this was carried out on January 25th and during the Summer and Christmas holidays. The floors, woodwork, seats and desks were thoroughly sprayed with liquid disinfectant, the rooms being afterwards fumigated with sulphur, and then cleansed by the caretaker.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES UNDER THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Six hundred and fifty houses have been inspected as follows : 188 in Swadlincote, 226 in Church Gresley, and 236 in Newhall. The results of such inspections have been entered on cards, these being filed away in street order, thus ensuring their easy production for future reference.

The sanitary defects found in the houses inspected were similar in character to those given in my last annual report. One closing order was made in connection with a house No. 30 Oversetts-road, Newhall ; this was pulled down and a new cottage erected by the owner. An old dilapidated thatched cottage in Common-road, Church Gresley, was voluntarily closed by the owners, the Moira Colliery Company, on representation being made by me to them

that the house was not fit for human habitation. The Company intend to thoroughly repair their property, and are taking in hand a block of houses at a time.

In all, the number of houses in the district that have been put into such a state of repair as to comply with the Act, was 165.

A considerable amount of property is owned by people with very limited incomes, who in many cases are dependent on the rents for their livelihood. These people experience great difficulty in having the necessary repairs carried out, and it is only by allowing them time that any improvements can be effected.

The inhabitants of a large number of houses also require reform. There is a certain percentage of tenants who, by their dirty and improvident habits, would turn a Paradise into a Slum, and they are so degraded and inured to their surroundings that it is almost hopeless to expect any reforms. Whenever possible, I try by persuasion to get them to reform, but I am afraid that little will result until some more drastic legislation comes forward to enforce individuals to have common self respect. I have hope that the future generation will be the better for the work now being performed by the Education Authority, and that the teaching of Cookery, Household Management, and Domestic Hygiene, as now taught in most schools, will have a beneficial effect on the children.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Five hundred and eighty-five visits have been paid to supervise the work in connection with drainage, sanitary and housing improvements which have been carried out in various parts of the district. Special attention has been given to this work, and advice given to owners and contractors as to the best manner of arranging and laying out drainage systems. To assist property owners I

have on many occasions got out complete specifications for the proposed improvements ; this, I may say, has been greatly appreciated by them, as it has enabled them to get the work carried out thoroughly and at the same time economically.

Fifty-six privies have been converted into water closets at 29 and 31 Belmont Street ; 36 and 39 Hastings Road ; 47 High Street ; 2, 4, 6, 45 and 47 Church Street ; 30 and 32 James Street ; 7, 9, 47 and 142 Coppice Side, The Stanhope Arms, and one in Midway Road, Swadlincote. At 82 to 98, and 22 to 28 Princess Street ; 89 and 91 Hastings Road ; 109 Stanhope Road ; 17 and 19 and 141 to 147 Wilmot Road ; 18 to 26 Oak Street ; 2 Regent Street ; 1 Castle Road, and 74 to 80 Gresley Wood Road, Church Gresley ; 20 and 22 Orchard Street ; 13 and 15 Park Road ; 64 and 66 Parliament Street, and 61 to 65 Wood Lane, Newhall.

Forty-seven new water closets have been erected or constructed out of other available buildings, in lieu of offensive privies, at 77 Swadlincote Road ; 15, 17 and 19 Market Street ; 24 and 26 John Street ; 69 and 71 Church Street ; 50, 56 and 58 Belmont Street ; 9 and 11 West Street ; and 21 to 27 Woodward's Place, Swadlincote. At 5 and 7 Glebe Street ; 28, 30, 37, 39 and 41 Talbot Street ; 12 Regent Street ; 3 to 11 Castle Road and Cottage adjoining the Railway Sidings, Church Gresley. At 9, 11 and 15 Park Street ; 116 New Road ; 1, 3 and 5 Hill Street ; 12 and 14 George Street ; 93 Main Street ; 29 and 31 Park Road ; 4 and 6 Robinson's Road ; 42 Bretby Road and Star Inn, Newhall.

Three additional water closets have been provided at Thorn Tree House, Newhall, and Glen Holme, Hearthcote Road, Church Gresley ; also eight water closets redrained and refixed, and 22 new ones provided in connection with new houses and buildings. A range of five Automatic trough water closets and one urinal have been erected at Messrs. Mansfield's Tile Works.

SUMMARY.

Privies converted into water closets	-	-	-	56
New water closets erected in lieu of defective and dilapidated privies	-	-	-	47
Additional water closets provided	-	-	-	3
Water closets provided to new houses and buildings	-	-	-	22
Automatic trough water closets erected	-	-	-	5
Total				133

Water closets redrained and refixed	-	-	-	8
New urinals fixed	-	-	-	1
Length of 6 inch drain pipe laid	-	-	-	370 yards.
Length of 5 inch drain pipe laid	-	-	-	102 yards.
Length of 4 inch drain pipe laid	-	-	-	1,919 yards.
Total				2,391

No. of intercepting traps fixed	-	-	-	6
No. of trapped gullies fixed and refixed	-	-	-	132
No. of ventilating shafts fixed	-	-	-	71
No. of inspection chambers built	-	-	-	54
No. of rodding eyes and access pipes fixed	-	-	-	21
No. of grease chambers built	-	-	-	1
No. of new connections made to Council's sewers	-	-	-	27

OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

New ashpits built	-	-	-	2
Defective ashpits repaired	-	-	-	15
Dilapidated ashpits abolished	-	-	-	13
Galvanized iron dust bins provided	-	-	-	107

Defective house drains repaired	-	-	-	59
Defective water closet drains repaired	-	-	-	9
Stopped water closet drains cleansed	-	-	-	3
Stopped house drains cleansed	-	-	-	5
Defective pig sty drains repaired	-	-	-	3
Defective spouts repaired	-	-	-	120
Defective fall pipes repaired	-	-	-	61
Defective roofs repaired	-	-	-	34
Defective yard pavings repaired	-	-	-	120
Defective living room and scullery floors repaired	-	-	-	124
Defective plastering on walls repaired	-	-	-	114
Defective brick walls pointed and repaired	-	-	-	46
Defective ceilings repaired	-	-	-	10
Defective windows repaired	-	-	-	10
Defective coal houses repaired	-	-	-	3
Defective wash houses repaired	-	-	-	1
Defective urinal repaired	-	-	-	1
New sink stones fixed	-	-	-	68
New sink waste pipes fixed	-	-	-	111
Dirty houses cleansed	-	-	-	27
Dirty water closets and privies cleansed	-	-	-	16
Additional window lighting provided	-	-	-	9
Living room windows made to open	-	-	-	32
Water taps fixed inside sculleries and wash houses	-	-	-	9
New wash houses built	-	-	-	15
New coal houses built	-	-	-	19
New sculleries built	-	-	-	2
New pantries built	-	-	-	6
New fire grates fixed	-	-	-	12
New coppers fixed	-	-	-	8
New water closet cisterns fixed	-	-	-	3

Hand flushed closets provided with flushing apparatus					3
Dampness in walls remedied	-	-	-		19
Pantries ventilated	-	-	-	-	11
Bedrooms ventilated	-	-	-	-	1
Damp proof courses inserted	-	-	-		4
Overcrowding in houses abated	-	-	-		2
Defective bedroom floors repaired	-	-	-		4
Other nuisances remedied	-	-	-	-	59
					<hr/>
Total				-	1,300
					<hr/>

NOTICES.

Four hundred and sixty Preliminary Notices and sixty-eight Statutory Notices have been served upon owners or occupiers of property requesting them to carry out the necessary work to remedy sanitary defects existing on their property, and 101 letters and 200 post cards have been written in connection with the above notices and other matters coming under my department. Also 126 letters and 84 post cards have been received, and 135 appointments with property owners and contractors kept.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The number of slaughter houses remains the same as in previous years, namely 34, twelve of which are subject to an annual licence. Out of this number seven are not in use, though in three cases the licences have been renewed in case they might be occupied again on some future occasion.

Structurally the conditions are the same, no alterations having taken place, there has been one change of occupancy.

During the year 720 visits have been paid to these premises, which are well conducted and kept in as cleanly a state as the nature of the work permits. March and September are the months set apart in the Council's bye-laws for the limewashing and cleansing of slaughter houses ; at the beginning of these months I notify the occupiers by post cards, requesting them to limewash and cleanse their premises before the end of the respective months. This form of notification has the desired effect, and it is a rare occurrence that a second intimation has to be given.

KNACKER'S ACT.

During the year plans for a slaughter house to be used in connection with the trade of a knacker were passed by the Council, and a licence granted to Messrs. Wm. Brown & Son, Newhall, to use the premises as a Knacker's yard. The premises have been specially built for the purpose, arrangements being made for dealing with the effluvia from the boiling pans, also for intercepting any grease from flowing into the drains and sewer. Since the commencement of the business I have paid many visits, and have always found the work properly carried out and the premises very clean.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Great attention has been paid to this part of my duties, and I endeavour to visit the slaughter houses during the process of slaughter or immediately afterwards, as this enables me to make a closer inspection of the animals slaughtered and offers greater facilities for so doing.

The cattle, sheep, and pigs killed in the district are of good quality, and, considering the number of animals slaughtered, are

rarely affected with disease. On twenty-three occasions I have been requested by butchers to inspect carcasses of beef which were more or less affected with tuberculosis. The total amount surrendered to me for disposal was : 168 lbs. of beef, 7 beasts' livers, 1 beast's heart, 21 sets of lungs, 6 sets of bellies, 2 sets of intestines and 394 lbs. of fat which was subsequently destroyed. It is a great pleasure to have to report a reduction in the amount of meat that had to be surrendered as unfit for human consumption, the disease being far less extensive in the carcasses than was the case last year, and one can hope that this reduction will be maintained. In all cases the butchers accepted my decision without question, and gave me every possible assistance in the discharge of my duties.

MARKETS.

I have paid 36 visits to the markets held on Saturday nights, and have inspected the foodstuffs offered for sale, the class of which compares most favourably with that sold in markets of a similar character.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are nineteen persons in the district carrying out, to a greater or lesser extent, the trade of fish frying. During the month of February I made a special report to the Highways, Buildings and Sewerage Committee on the sanitary condition of the premises where the trade is carried on. Owing to a certain building being erected for the purpose of fish frying, the Committee decided to apply to the Local Government Board to have the trade declared an offensive one under Section 51 of the Public Health Acts' Amendment Act, 1907. The order was approved, and a special set of Byelaws dealing with the construction, management and

cleanliness of these premises and other offensive trades will shortly be submitted to the Board for their approval.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, AND MILK SHOPS.

There are 43 cowsheds in the district, being three more than last year. Previous to registering any new applications they are requested to put the proposed building into such order and condition as to comply with the provisions of the Byelaws of the Council under the Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops' Order. One new shed has been built, and three other buildings put into such a state of repair as to meet the requirements of the Order.

In these cowsheds 197 cows are kept, the milk from two cowsheds is sent to London, the remainder being disposed of locally. May and October are the months set apart in the byelaws for lime-washing and cleansing these premises, the occupants of which are notified to that effect at the beginning of the months. One hundred and sixty-three visits have been paid during the year, the frequency of these visits having a good effect on the cow-keepers, who are made to realise the importance of supplying a clean milk to the public, also the necessity of keeping their premises clean.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

There are 40 factories, 97 workshops, and 26 bakehouses on the register to which I have paid 201 visits ; on the whole they are kept in a cleanly state and none of them are overcrowded. All complaints reported by the Factory Inspector, with the exception of those where new blocks of water closets are to be erected, have been attended to. A range of five Automatic Trough Water Closets and a Urinal have been erected at Messrs. Mansfield's Tile

Works. A block of privies are to be abolished and a range of nine Trough Water Closets and a Urinal are to be erected at Messrs. T. Wragg & Sons' Pipe Works, also four new water closets built at their brick works.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Dirty workshops cleansed	-	-	-	-	4
Dirty bakehouses cleansed	-	-	-	-	8
Dirty closets cleansed	-	-	-	-	2
Insufficient privacy to female closets remedied	-	-	-	-	2
Offensive privies abolished	-	-	-	-	8
New trough water closets erected	-	-	-	-	5
New pail closets provided in lieu of privies	-	-	-	-	2
New water closets provided	-	-	-	-	1
New urinals built	-	-	-	-	1
Defective closets repaired	-	-	-	-	3
Total					36

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The refuse of the district is disposed of by filling up hollows and low lying lands in various parts of the locality ; also a small proportion dealt with by the small destructor at the Depot. The contents of the privy cesspools are taken to farmers in the immediate neighbourhood.

During the past year the scavenging has been very efficiently carried out, and, considering the size of the district and the number of privies and ashpits to be cleansed, few complaints have been received from house holders asking for their sanitary conveniences to be cleansed.

There are still many old and antiquated privies and ashpits remaining, although during the last few years a number have been

converted into water closets and galvanized iron dust bins provided in lieu of offensive and open ashpits.

We must always look upon these as a menace to health, and now it is common knowledge and a generally accepted fact that they are the breeding ground for house flies, who, in their frequent visits to and fro, carry disease germs on to the food (and especially milk) into the houses.

Although the conversion of these conveniences into water closets, entails considerable expense on private property owners, we cannot stop for this reason alone, but must gradually push forward the work until the last one has disappeared. I must point out to you that there is also a credit side to this question, as the less cases of sickness we have the richer the community.

After making inspections of houses in which the sanitary conveniences are of the privy cesspool type, any found to be in a dilapidated and insanitary condition or in close proximity to the houses are at once dealt with, and in all the other cases a circular letter, together with any other notice required, is forwarded to the owners, intimating to them that probably in the near future the Council will require the conversion of this type of closet into a water closet. In some cases this letter has had the desired effect, the owners being prepared to proceed with the conversions forthwith, realizing the benefit of the improvements.

Respecting offensive and open ashpits, these are always reported as nuisances, and notices asking for galvanized iron dust bins in lieu thereof, are served upon the owners. Wherever possible, I try to persuade owners to abolish their existing ashpits and provide dust bins, these being emptied weekly.

SUMMARY OF THE NATURE AND NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

Houses visited for infectious diseases	-	-	-	139
Houses revisited for infectious diseases	-	-	-	144
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	-	-	-	650
Slaughter houses inspected	-	-	-	720
Markets inspected	-	-	-	36
Cowsheds and dairies inspected	-	-	-	175
Factories inspected	-	-	-	74
Workshops inspected	-	-	-	65
Bakehouses inspected	-	-	-	62
Fried fish shops and fish stores inspected-	-	-	-	37
Urinals inspected	-	-	-	6
Privies, earth and pail closets inspected	-	-	-	660
Cesspools inspected	-	-	-	31
Ashpits inspected-	-	-	-	507
Piggeries inspected	-	-	-	171
Accumulations of manure inspected	-	-	-	34
Drainage and sanitary improvements inspected	-	-	-	585
Appointments with property owners kept	-	-	-	96
Appointments with contractors kept	-	-	-	39
Complaints received and attended to	-	-	-	70
Drains tested	-	-	-	31
Visits paid to outstanding nuisances	-	-	-	355
Courts, yards and passages inspected	-	-	-	74
Total				4,761

• I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE POLLARD.

